

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Office of National Estimates
Conference with [REDACTED] Member, 25X1A9a
Board of National Estimates.
(16 July 1953)

25X1A9a

1. [REDACTED] said that the detailed reports prepared in ORR are quite satisfactory in meeting ONE needs for economic intelligence on the Soviet Bloc. He cited an example of an East-West trade paper. The first report which they received from the Economic Intelligence Committee was used in the preparation of a draft which was not acceptable to the Intelligence Advisory Committee although representatives of the same agencies had approved the basic intelligence study at the EIC level. The staff of the Board then used several ORR industry and commodity reports and, with the assistance of ORR specialists, prepared a draft of a national estimate which was accepted. [REDACTED] said that these detailed reports (he mentioned, for instance, one on the electronics industry) were very helpful to the board staff in this instance.

25X1A9a 2. [REDACTED] thought that the ORR detailed industry reports provided a good common basis of facts for the discussions of economic aspects of national estimates. Representatives of the State Department and the military agencies frequently use ORR reports for this purpose. This function of ORR as a source of intelligence research support on matters of common concern was thought to be widely accepted. He considered that the ORR production and capabilities for research support were very impressive.